



Recreation Department

PARK COMMISSIONERS

Shirley Canniff
Leslie Mayer
Jen Rothenberg
Phil Lasker
Scott Walker
Josh Fenollosa - Associate
Sarah Carrier- Associate

MEETING NOTICE

The Park and Recreation Commission
Tuesday, February 13, 2024
7:00 PM – Arlington Community Center (2nd Floor)

AGENDA

- 1) Capital Plan Process Discussion
- 2) Special Event Requests
 - a) Reservoir Beach – American Cancer Society -5/4/2024
 - b) Hurd Field – American Cancer Society – 6/22/2024
 - c) Reservoir Parking Lot –Mike Hendy Classic Car Show – 6/2/2024
- 3) Comments and Items for Future Meetings:
- 4) Correspondence Received: G. Keller (Reservoir Berm)
- 5) Minute Approval – 1/23/2024
- 6) New Business
 - a) Artificial Turf Committee Update –Joe Connelly and Leslie Mayer
 - b) Open Space Committee Update – Shirley Canniff
- 7) Public Comment

TOWN OF ARLINGTON



PARK COMMISSIONERS
 Shirley Canniff
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 Sara Carrier - Associate

Recreation Department

SPECIAL EVENT REQUEST

*For all gatherings over 50 people and private/corporate events

Today's Date: 1/30/24 (Requests must be made 1 month in advance)

Contact Name: Alexandra Guarino

Phone (C): 7322329278

Email Address: alexandra.guarino@cancer.org

Home Address: 3 Speen St, Framingham MA

Purpose: American Cancer Society sponsored Bark For Life

Estimated Attendance: 35

Day: Saturday

Date: May 4th, 2024

Set up Time: 10 AM

Start Time: 12 PM

End Time: 3 PM

Break Down: 4 PM

Site Requested: Arlington Reservoir

Area at Site Requested: _____

Activities: This is a walk for participants and their canine companions. There is a ceremony to thank people for coming and share the mission of the American Cancer Society. We will have local canine vendors.

Will food be on site? ☒ Yes No Please list all food: Bake Sale

Will you be promoting this event via social media? ☒ Yes No

Fees:

| Category | Group | Rate |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Special Event | Arlington Resident/Organization | \$25/hr |
| Special Event | Non Arlington Resident/ Organizations | \$50/hr |

Additional Requirements/Fees:

- Site is permitted as is. Groups are responsible for cleanup of the site including trash. If your event needs support from Public Works additional fees will be required and billed per hour (minimum 4 hrs).
- For groups over 150 people a police detail may be required, if your group is required to get a police detail you must set this up with the department before you will receive a permit.
- If you will be having prepared food at your event you must contact the Board of Health to get the appropriate food permit.

☒ By signing below I acknowledge and accept the rules and regulations (back) responsibilities for this permit and I agree to release, indemnify, and hold harmless the Town of Arlington from and against any and all claims, demands, losses, damages, defense costs, or liability of any kind which may arise out of, or is in any manner connected with, the above-described activity.

Alexandra Guarino

(Signature of Responsible Party)

1/30/24

(Date)

Revised 4.21.2021

TOWN OF ARLINGTON



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 Phil Lasker
 Sara Carrier - Associate

Recreation Department

SPECIAL EVENT REQUEST

**For all gatherings over 50 people and private/corporate events*

Today's Date: 1/29/24 (Requests must be made 1 month in advance)

Contact Name: Alexandra Guarino

Phone (C): 7322329278

Email Address: alexandra.guarino@cancer.org

Home Address: 3 Speen St, Framingham MA

Purpose: American Cancer Society sponsored Relay For Life of Greater Arlington

Estimated Attendance: 65

Day: Saturday Date: June 22nd, 2024 Set up Time: 1 PM Start Time: 5 PM

End Time: 9 PM Break Down: 10 PM

Site Requested: Hurd Field

Area at Site Requested: _____

Activities: We will celebrate cancer survivors, caregivers, and lost loved ones through several ceremonies

We will have fun lawn games, a bake sale, and most importantly, take laps around

the track to honor our local heroes.

Will food be on site? ☒ Yes No Please list all food: Bake Sale

Will you be promoting this event via social media? ☒ Yes No

Fees:

| Category | Group | Rate |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Special Event | Arlington Resident/Organization | \$25/hr |
| Special Event | Non Arlington Resident/ Organizations | \$50/hr |

Additional Requirements/Fees:

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Alexandra Guarino
 (Signature of Responsible Party)

1/29/24

(Date)

Revised 4.21.2021

Joseph Connelly, Director

TOWN OF ARLINGTON



Recreation Department

PARK COMMISSIONERS
Shirley Canoff
Leah Mayer
Jen Rothenberg
Scott Walker
Phil Lasker
Sara Carter
Josh Fenollosa

SPECIAL EVENT REQUEST

*For all large gatherings over 50 people and private/corporate events

Today's Date: 1/21/24 (Requests must be made 1 month in advance)

Contact Name: Michael Hendy

Phone (C): 617 959 6938

Email Address: mhendy@hotmail.com

Home Address: 19 Pawnee Drive ARLINGTON MA 02474

Purpose: CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Estimated Attendance: 100 PEOPLE FOR ENTIRE SHOW

Day: 2/6/24 6/2/24 Date: 6/2/24 Set up Time: 1pm Start Time: 2pm

END TIME: 6pm Break Down: 6pm

Site Requested: RESERVE CAR PARK Area at Site Requested: CAR PARK NEAR FIELD

Activities: 25-35 CLASSIC CARS, VIEWING OF CARS & PRIZE GIVING

Will food be on site? ☒ Yes No Please list all food: ICE CREAM TRUCK

Will you be promoting this event via social media? ☒ Yes No

Fees:

| Category | Group | Rate |
|---------------|--|----------|
| Special Event | Arlington Resident/Organization | \$100/hr |
| Special Event | Non Arlington/Private Business Resident/ Organizations | \$250/hr |

Additional Requirements/Fees:

- Site is permitted as is. Groups are responsible for cleanup of the site including trash. If your event needs support from Public Works additional fees will be required and billed per hour (minimum 4 hrs).
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(Signature of Responsible Party)

(Date)

Arlington Recreation Department
422 Summer Street

Revised 10.10.2023



6/2 or 6/9 ^{Rdate}

2pm - 6pm

30 Cars

100 people off + on.

- Staff Bathrooms
- Ice Cream truck



ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINTUES

Draft

January 23, 2024

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order in the main meeting room at the Community Center on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 7:00pm.

Commission Members: Scott Walker, Phil Lasker, Shirley Canniff, Jen Rothenberg, Sarah Carrier and Josh Fenollosa. Recreation Director Joe Connelly and ConCom liason Susan Chapnick were also present. Leslie Mayer was not in attendance.

Anticipated Speakers:

Preliminary Matter: Scott Walker, Park & Recreation Commission Chair, took formal attendance and welcomed anticipated speakers and members of the public to the Recreation Commission meeting.

Arlington Reservoir Bench Donation – Elizabeth Durant submitted a gift request to donate and dedicate a bench which will be installed overlooking the water at the Reservoir. The dedication language has been changed to meet approved guidelines.

Permitting of Alcohol Events on Property Under Park Commission Jurisdiction – Mr. Connelly stated that a permitting policy was not needed because existing by-laws prohibit alcohol on the properties. One day permits can be issued but must be approved by the SelectBoard.

- Ms. Canniff - Arlington used to be a "dry town".
- Mr. Walker – Special consideration for non-profits?
- Ms. Rothenberg – Last revision was in 2015.

No vote or action required by the Commission.

Capital Updates

Robbins Farm Construction

- Project on winter break
- Trying to come up with agreeable solution with slide manufacturer.
- Requesting legal language guidance from Town Counsel's John Lerue - concrete slide liability assurance.
- 14 week wait for equipment. Likely won't arrive by goal of July 4.
- Mr. Lasker – Slide manufacturer needs to submit shop drawings for approval.

Hills Hill MTB

- A couple of trail design options for designer and engineer to review. Meeting within next couple of weeks with design team.
- Will need to go back to CPA to show design to comply with funding condition not to interfere with trees.
- More discussion with Brian McBride over pump track location.

Parallel and Menotomy Designs

Parallel

- Two great designs with positive changes. Budgeting is on track.

Menotomy

- Two designs for public input session on February 8.

- Two draft designs have been sent to ConCom for input.
- Buffer zone concerns are being reviewed.

CPA & Capital

- CPA presentations at 7pm on January 31 for Crosby and Menotomy. Earliest funding available July 1.
- Mr. Connelly will reach out to Representative Sean Garballey for state funding to assist with add/alts.
- Current Capital recommendations in Town Manager's budget –
Parallel - \$600K – FY 25
Field Master Plan - \$85K – FY26
Playground Master Plan - \$100 – FY28 (originally FY27)

Rink Parking Lot Study

- Contract awarded to Stantec.
- Design team being selected and setting up initial meeting. Will gather input from hockey, baseball, soccer etc.
- Will get cost estimates and look to Capital rather than CPA.
- Ms. Canniff – Look at Summer Street traffic light issues. Consult TAC about installing a sensor.
- Mr. Fenollosa – Remove Ryder Street as a public way?
- Mr. Connelly – Look at sidewalk between hill and the bikeway. Parking lot island causes driving and bus turn around issues.

Drake Village Connection

- NOI on February 1 in front of ConCom
- Housing Authority money put toward sidewalk at entrance way at Drake Village. Looking for \$100K in funding to extend sidewalk to Reservoir.

Comments and Items for Future Meetings –

February 8, 2024 public meetings for Menotomy Rocks and Parallel will be held back to back with Menotomy Rocks being held first.

Correspondence Received

Melinda Forest – Email regarding off-leash dogs attacking her and her dog on multiple occasions at Hills Hill/Buck Field. Ms. Forest stressed how fearful they are about walking their leashed dog in the area. The ACO has filed a report and is keeping records.

Approval of Minutes

- 12/12/2023 Tabled
- 1/9/2024 – Ms. Canniff motioned to approve the minutes, as amended, seconded by Mr. Lasker and approved 4-0.

New Business

- a. Artificial Turf Committee Update – Mr. Connelly and Ms. Mayer represent the Commission on the safety subcommittee. Each subcommittee conducts their own research and shares findings with the committee. The safety committee has looked at abrasions, concussion, ACL/MCL tears, heat illnesses and other mitigating circumstances. The subcommittees are permitted to bring in special guests/experts to support their findings. The committee has requested that all reports be submitted by March 22 to be in time for April's Town Meeting. Ms. Stamps and Mr. Benson have

stated that they will be submitting a warrant article to extend until October. However, working groups are working hard to complete all research in the next two months.

- b. Recreation Department Parmenter School Update – The Recreation offices and all Kid Care programs will be moving forward with the plan to move into the Parmenter School. The SelectBoard supports the move stating there are “no obstacles”.

- Existing programs will be able to increase enrollment and hours. Additional programming for younger age groups/toddlers is being planned.
- New playground installed last year.
- Meeting with contractors – flooring, painting, security, parking.
- The rink offices will begin moving in April, Kid Care Preschool will move over the summer and Kid Care Afterschool will follow in September. The rink and office space will be reorganized as well to allow for party rooms and dedicated locker rooms for the high school teams. Any construction/improvements will be contracted by the Recreation Department.

Public Comment – N/A

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn at 7:56pm, seconded by Ms. Canniff. Approved 4-0.

The Arlington Park & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes were respectfully submitted by Deanna Stacchi.

To: Joe Connolly, Director, Recreation Department jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us
Tim Lecuivre, Tree Warden tlecuivre@town.arlington.ma.us
Jim Feeney, City Manager jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us

FROM: Gabrielle Keller

RE: A Plea for the Berm

Disappearing Bird Habitats in Massachusetts' Small Town Ponds

We are witnessing a concerning trend of the rapid disappearance of bird habitats in small town ponds across the state. One of these ponds is the Arlington Reservoir. With the extreme change in the natural shoreline, the removal of trees and shrubs and introduction of grass "lawn" areas, the nesting areas have been reduced and in some cases badly damaged.

The most critical nesting area is the Berm. With its wide variety of vegetation, berry bushes, and shoreline access it has been an essential area for migrating birds. Due to the reconstruction at the Res, there has been an extreme uptake in traffic on the Berm with bicycles, large groups of people, multiple dogs, etc coming through the narrow path. Because of the configuration of the new swimming area, people were taking the Berm route when they normally would walk across the beach area, or in the past, along the sidewalk. The entries on both sides of the Berm have lost much of their vegetation and now have lawn areas that will presumably will be used for recreational areas. The playground is great for children and parents. However, do we need to turn the remainder of the Res into a park and interact with every part of it? Do we need to turn it into an entertainment venue which creates more stress for the migrating wildlife? There is a delicate balance between the need for parks and the importance of habitats. One solution might be to designate certain wildlife areas along the shorelines in various places to allow for wild life to be safe and have better chances for survival.

Along with the landscaping there has been an alarming increase in water chestnuts. Understandably, they are difficult to eradicate, but if the town has money to hire landscaping companies to mow the lawns and blow the leaves, it seems more humane to help the wildlife that is injured by the chestnut seeds. I have been documenting the Res for 8 years and have never seen ducklings die until this year, unable to get out of their nesting area and trapped by the chestnuts. Birds and ducks that consume fish wind up swallowing them and being injured internally and externally (see pictures attached). Hopefully there won't be more removal of the natural elements needed for healthy wildlife. Some of the essential needs for survival are - older trees for tree nesting, logs in the water so the turtles can bask, hidden sloped shore lines so the ducks have safe places to get away from people, dogs and turtles. There should be some places that make it hard for people to get to, as there were before the renovation. Fishing should require a license or at least have some signage to not leave lines, hooks and lures around that raptors turtles and swans will eat.

This year, the duckling survivors were brought up under the bridge. The water was running fresh from the Res (without water chestnuts) and the shrubs were there to protect them. When the invasive plants were pulled out of the Res and stored under the bridge, they began to rot, and as the smell and water quality deteriorated and the ducks re-entered the Res. It was amazing to see how the animals coped and changed due to their now reduced living area. Mostly in the winter, you could see nests in almost every tree now there are very few between the wide open spaces and the steep drop of the carved out shoreline. This alarming decline in habitat availability poses significant risks to several bird species, including migrating birds like swallows and warblers, as well as ducks that rely on suitable shoreline environments. It is crucial that we recognize the importance of preserving these habitats to safeguard our avian populations and maintain the ecological balance. Below is some documentation of the necessities of the most frequent inhabitants of the Res.

Migrating birds: such as swallows and warblers, require specific habitats to rest, refuel, and breed during their long journeys. These habitats must offer:

- **Dense Vegetation:** Shrubs, trees, and vegetation provide shelter, protection from predators, and places for nesting and foraging.
- **Insect Abundance:** Swallows and warblers rely heavily on insects as their primary food source. Healthy habitats should support a diverse insect population, ensuring an adequate food supply.
- **Water Sources:** Access to freshwater ponds, streams, or wetlands is crucial for migrating birds to drink, bathe, and find food.

Ducks: Both resident and migratory species, have distinct habitat needs, particularly when it comes to shorelines. To support healthy duck populations, shoreline habitats should include:

- **Vegetation and Cover:** Ducks require emergent vegetation along the water's edge for nesting, hiding, and protection from predators. Tall grasses, reeds, and shrubs are essential components.
- **Food Availability:** Aquatic plants, submerged vegetation, and invertebrates found in shallow water provide important food sources for ducks. Maintaining a balanced ecosystem within the pond is crucial.

Accessible Edges: Gradual slopes or shallow areas along the shoreline allow ducks to access the water easily for feeding and grooming. Steep or eroded shorelines limit their ability to thrive.

It is urgent that local communities, conservation organizations, and policymakers to take immediate action to address the disappearance of bird habitats in small town ponds. This includes implementing conservation initiatives, preserving and restoring vegetation around ponds, controlling pollution, and educating the public about the importance of these habitats.

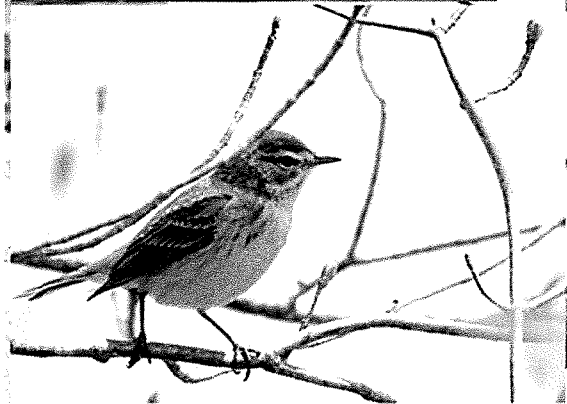
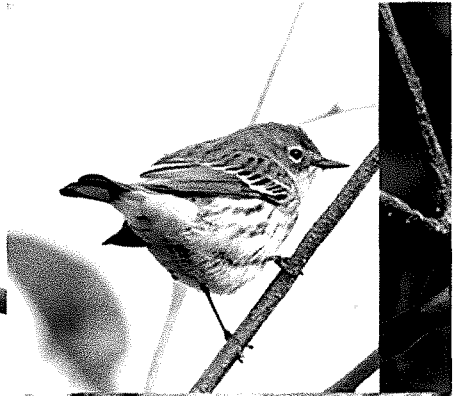
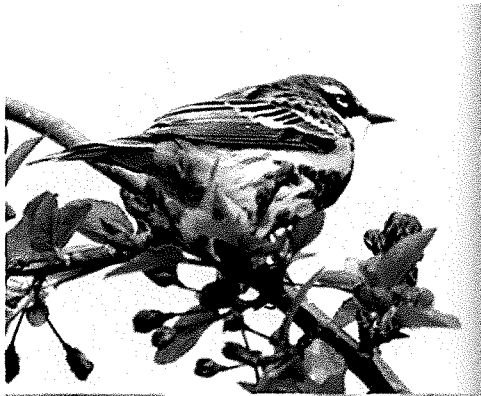
By standing together to protect and restore the habitats that migrating birds, depend on, we can ensure the survival and well-being of these incredible avian species and preserve the natural beauty that enriches our lives.

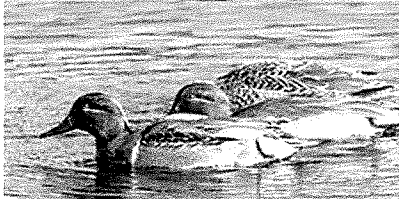
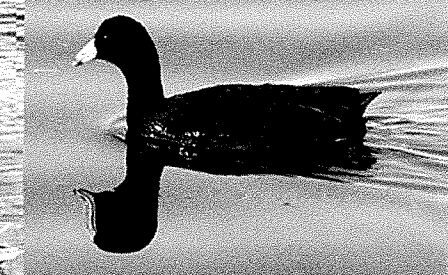
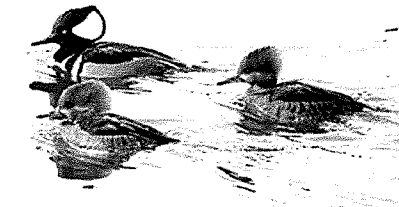
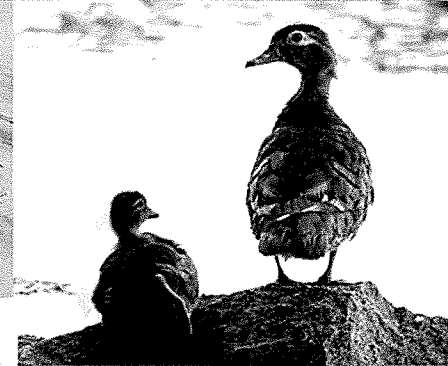
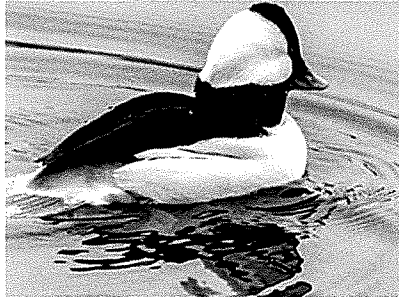
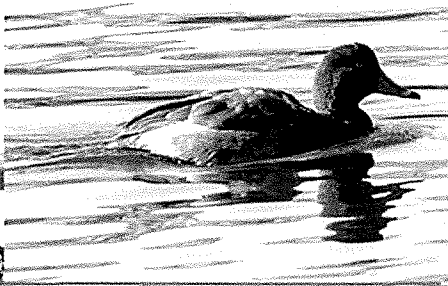
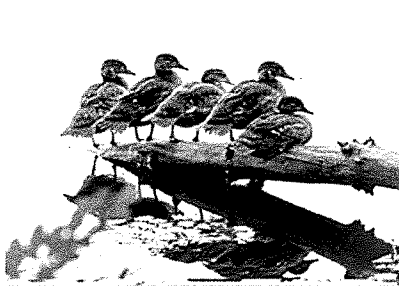
Thank you for your attention to these important issues.

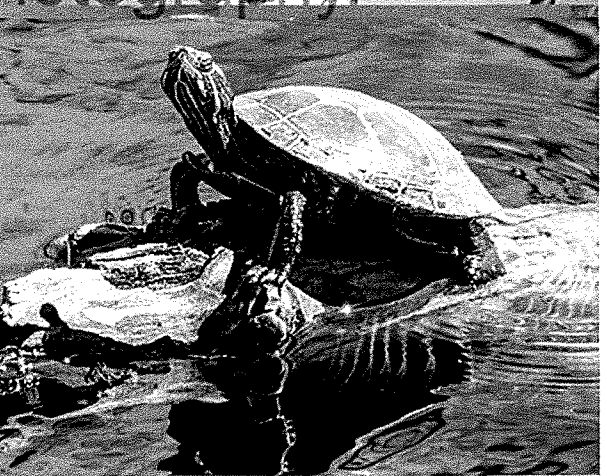
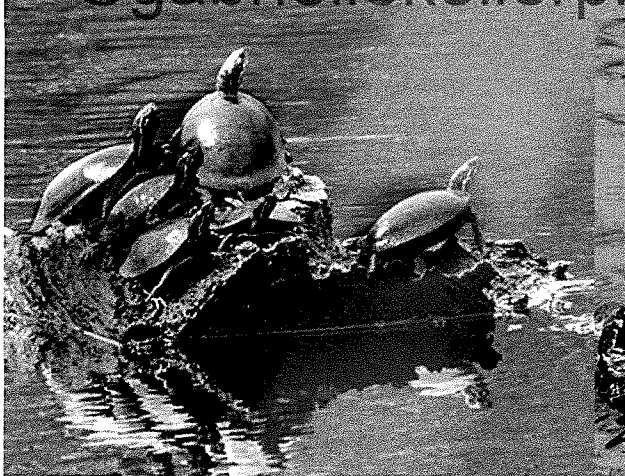
Sincerely, Gabrielle Keller

URL: <https://www.gabriellekellerfineart.com>

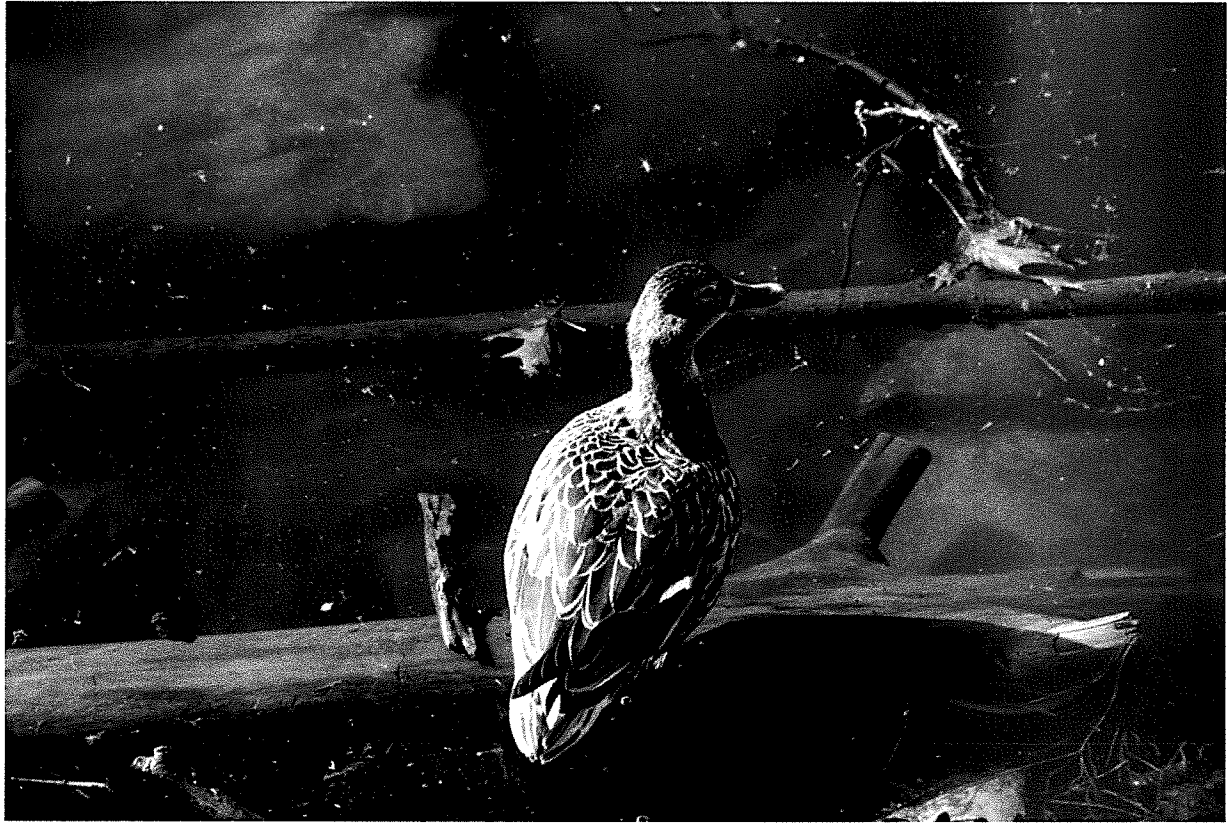
Please see the attached PDF below. The warblers were all photographed on the Berm. Along with the warblers, there were humming birds, nesting woodpeckers, cedar waxwings and many other different species. They are a very small sample from an ongoing 8 year project that will result in a book documentary of the diverse wildlife and landscape at the Arlington Reservoir 2024.

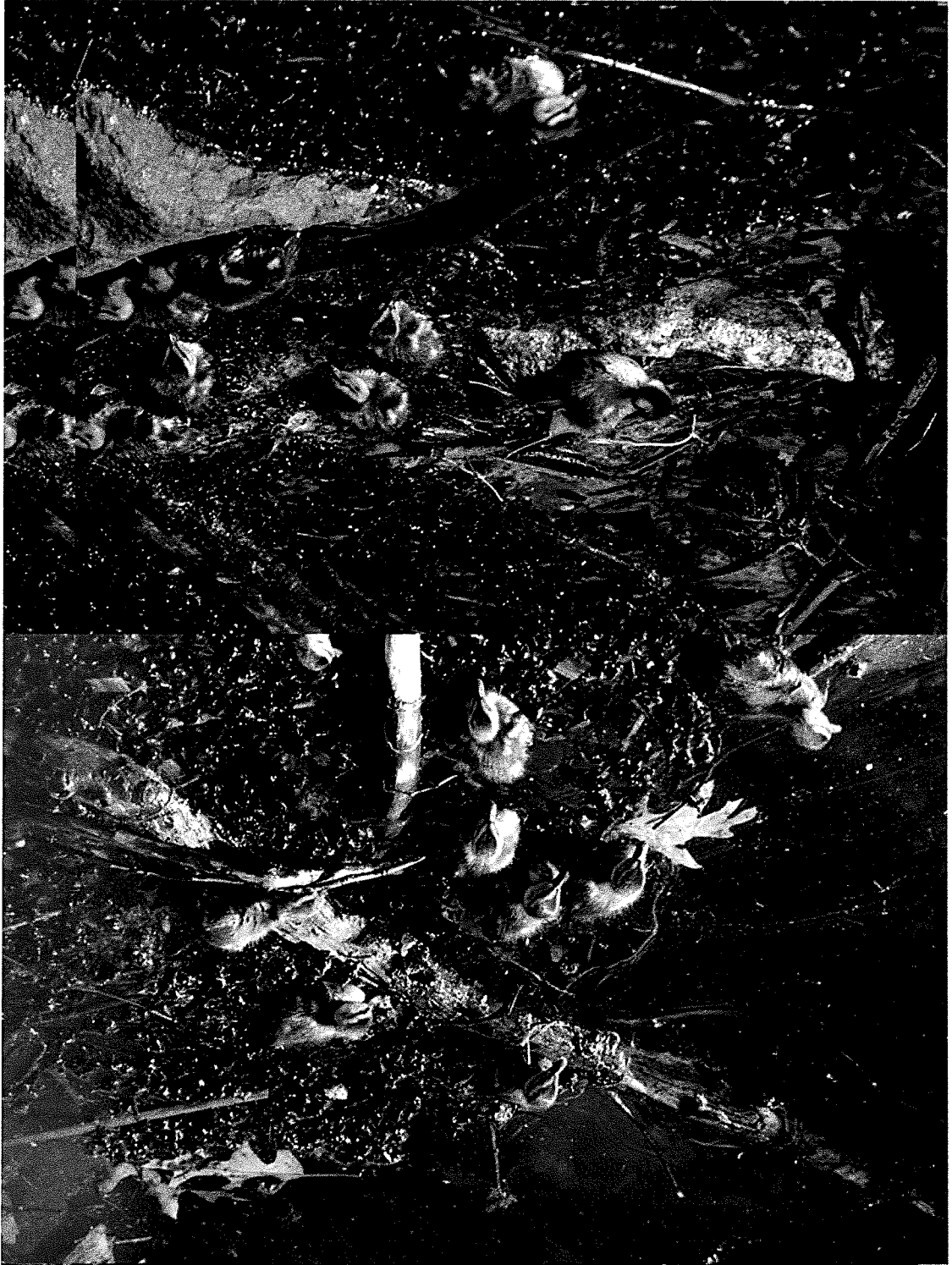






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